

Sept. 13, 2018

Exhibit 15

Proposed 2019 Session Legislation		Purpose
DNRC Water Resources Division (WPIC)		
	Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee	Clean-up bill to address required reporting dates and to clarify the role of the Drought and Water Supply Committee so as to not be duplicative of efforts coordinated by MT DES, DNRC Floodplains, National Weather Service and US Army Corp of Engineers.
	An act amending 85-2-420	Amend 85-2-420 to allow flexibility in how mitigation water is measured and delivered.
	An act amending 85-2-402	Strike 85-2-402(7) this will clarify when and what type of hearing is required for change applications.
	An act repealing section 85-2-331	To consolidate certain water reservation information from 85-2-331 into 85-2-316 and repeal 85-2-331. Because water reservation applications are no longer accepted for the Missouri anymore.
	An act amending 85-2-102 and repealing 85-2-422	Amend/move definitions from specific parts to 85-2-102; From a formatting standpoint, it's better to have definitions in one place if they apply to the chapter as a whole. The definition of non-consumptive use that is used for the closed basin statutes is one that we refer to for open basins. The Water Right definition in 85-2-422 should be moved to definitions as well.

Proposed 2019 Session Legislation		Purpose
DNRC Trust Lands Division		
	Option for Online Oil & Gas Lease Sales	Revise current statute, 77-3-411 to give the department the option to consider implementing an online auction process for state school trust land oil & gas leasing.
	77-5-212 - Commercial permits for timber sales	It is the intent of the Department to increase the amount of green timber that can be harvested under a commercial permit per MCA 77-5-212 to take advantage of short term market changes.
	77-5-208 - Timber Conservation License in Lieu of Sale	It is the intent of the Department to clarify: circumstances under which a conservation license in lieu of timber sale can be used; when applications for licenses must be submitted; the license term; and the discretion of the agency in accepting license applications. Proposed changes would offer the department discretion in determining the size and location of the conservation license area, to maximize the term of licenses at 10 years, and to prohibit licenses on timber sales that are proposed as a part of the salvage timber program (MCA 77-5-207) where the department is directed to address salvage situations in a timely manner to capture the value of dead and dying timber.

Proposed 2019 Session Legislation		Purpose
DNRC Forestry Division		
	Increase bond and fees for the Hazard Reduction Agreement (HRA) Program	<p>Increase of HRA Bond, Administrative Fee, and Forestry Extension Service Fee.</p> <p>Bond: MCA 76-13-408 Section 2 would change from the current language regarding bond amount: "\$6 for each 1,000 board feet (log scale) or the equivalent if forest products other than logs are cut" to "\$12 for each 1,000 board fee (log scale) or the equivalent if forest products other than logs are cut".</p> <p>Administrative fee: MCA 76-13-414 Section 2(b) would change from the current language regarding administrative fee amount: "60 cents for each 1,000 board feet (log scale) must be charged or an equivalent fee must be charged if products other than logs are cut" to "85 cents for each 1,000 board feet (log scale) must be charged or an equivalent fee must be charged if products other than logs are cut".</p> <p>Forestry Extension Service fee: MCA 76-13-414 Section 2(c) would change from the current language regarding forestry extension service fee amount: "15 cents for each 1,000 board feet (log scale) must be charged or an equivalent fee must be charged if products other than logs are cut" to "30 cents for each 1,000 board feet (log scale) must be charged or an equivalent fee must be charged if products other than logs are cut".</p>
	Allow for Statutory Authority for GNA program income	<p>Allow for statutory authority to be requested on an as-needed basis as program income is earned under Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreements.</p> <p>Revise MCA 76-13-104 to allow statutory authority and revise MCA 17-7-502 to cross-reference as necessary.</p>
	Change the "Responsible Party" language within the SMZ Law.	<p>In the Streamside Management Zone Law - A proposed change from the current language in MCA 77-5-305 which now reads "Responsibility for compliance -- penalties -- administrative orders. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), it is the responsibility of the owner (strike the bold type) to ensure compliance with the provisions of this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part." to "Responsibility for compliance -- penalties -- administrative orders. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), it is the responsibility of the Hazard Reduction Agreement Contractor (insert the bold type) to ensure compliance with the provisions of this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part." This change will put the responsibility more accurately on the person or entity that is typically responsible for carrying out the work. The landowner often is not familiar with typical logging practices or the laws and rules governing them. The HRA contractor typically is familiar with these laws and rules and is in a better position to make sure they are properly followed. In MCA 77-5-305 (1)(b) the clause would be re-written to state that the HRA Contractor could, in writing, transfer the responsibility for SMZ Law compliance to the landowner.</p>